

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, replace the paragraph, beginning on line 1, with the following amended paragraph:

--The present invention relates to a method of manufacturing, from a strip of possibly perforated sheet metal, a structured packing corrugation, the overall surface of which is generated substantially by sweeping a repetitive profile parallel to the edges of the strip, along a ~~directrix~~ path which is non-rectilinear over at least part of its length and having a main orientation which is oblique with respect to the edges of the strip, in which a folding-pressing operation is carried out on the strip in successive steps, by means of two opposed dies with a relative movement alternating between coming together and moving apart, these dies having active surfaces which are substantially conjugate with the two faces of the corrugation.--

Page 2, replace the paragraph, beginning on line 7, with the following amended paragraph:

--EP-A-1025985 describes a method of fabricating a humidifying panel made of cardboard, the overall surface of which is generated substantially by sweeping a repetitive profile parallel to the edges of the strip, along a ~~directrix~~ path which is non-rectilinear over at least part of its length and having a main orientation which is oblique with respect to the edges of the strip, characterized in that a folding-pressing operation is carried out on the strip (17) in successive steps, by means of

two opposed dies (11, 12) with a relative movement alternating between coming together and moving apart, these dies having active surfaces (11, 12) which are substantially conjugate with the two faces of the corrugation.--

Page 2, replace the paragraph, beginning on line 31, bridging pages 2 and 3, with the following amended paragraph:

--To this end, the ~~manufacuring~~ manufacturing method according to the invention is characterized in that the strip is made of metal. The method according to the invention [[many]] may comprise one or more of the following characteristics:

- the active surfaces of the dies are formed such that the height of the undulations of the corrugation is reduced over a region comprising at least one edge of the corrugation and/or the angle formed by the undulations is altered (preferably reduced) over a region comprising at least one edge of the corrugation compared with the angle formed by the undulations in a central region of the corrugation;
- in at least one non-rectilinear region, at least some convex apexes of at least one die have a reduced height compared with that of an adjacent rectilinear region;
- all the convex apexes of the two dies have a reduced height in one or each non-rectilinear region;
- the said reduction in height is progressive from the said adjacent rectilinear region;

- the strip is perforated before the folding-pressing operation is carried out;
- the strip is annealed before it undergoes folding-pressing, at least in the regions of this strip which correspond to the non-rectilinear regions of the ~~directrix~~ path;
- the annealing is carried out after the strip has been perforated;
- the ~~directrix~~ path has a rectilinear main part and at least one curved end part which ends substantially perpendicular to the edges of the corrugation;
- the ~~directrix~~ path has an elongate S-shape, with a rectilinear main part and two curved end parts which end substantially perpendicular to the edges of the corrugation;
- the profile is zig-zag shaped with substantially rectilinear sides;
- the method comprises the step of making the sheet-metal strip advance in successive steps between the dies in the open position thereof; and
- the corrugation is a cross-corrugated packing corrugation.--

Page 5, replace the paragraph, beginning on line 12, with the following amended paragraph:

--The corrugation is generated by sweeping the profile 4 parallel to the edges 2 and 3, along a ~~directrix~~ path 8. This line 8 (Figures 1 and 3) comprises, over the majority of its

length, a rectilinear common part 9, inclined at 45° with respect to the edges 2 and 3, and it curves at each end along an arc 10 which ends on the corresponding edge, substantially perpendicular thereto. The two arcs 10 have opposed concavities, which endow the line 8 with a general elongate S-shape. The corrugation thus comprises a series of lower and upper corrugation apexes, having the same elongate S-shape.--

Page 6, replace the paragraph, beginning on line 30, with the following amended paragraph:

--For some parameters of the profile 4 and of the ~~directrix~~ path 8, and/or for some types of perforations of the strip 17, it may be useful to resort to the variant of Figures 7 and 9, which makes it possible to reduce the extension of the metal at the peak of the undulations, in the regions 10 where the ~~directrix~~ path 8 is curved.--